



# THE HUB

## The Rotary Club of Park Cities

Volume 76, Number 20

[www.parkcitiesrotary.org](http://www.parkcitiesrotary.org)

January 10, 2025

*Serving to Make a Difference Since 1948*

### TODAY'S PROGRAM

*Program Chair of the Day: Nolan Duck*



## Richie L. Butler

### The Value Proposition for Diversity

Richie Butler is Senior Pastor of the historic St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church in Dallas and Founder of Project Unity.

Richie has over 20 years of experience in private equity real estate investment management. He has been responsible for nearly \$1 billion of institutional real estate investment and fund management activity throughout the U.S.

Under his visionary leadership Project Unity offers community building and Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) solutions through its "Together We" programs including Together We Ball, Together We Dine, Together We Learn, and Together We Sing.

As a civic leader, in response to the five Dallas police officers who were ambushed in 2016, Richie launched the Year of Unity a community wide initiative to help bridge racial divides in Dallas. The initiative included support from the 43rd President of the United States, George W. Bush, who served as the Honorary Chair.

During the pandemic, he launched the Together We Test and Together We Vaccinate programs to help address the lack of COVID-19 testing and vaccinations in low-income communities. Combined, these programs tested and vaccinated over 10,000 individuals. In 2021, he co-launched the Together We Can

initiative to address the "what can I do" question people began to ask in response to the death of George Floyd. The Together We Can program has attracted Fortune 500 companies, universities, foundations, and grassroots organizations as partners.

Richie's current board appointments include Southern Methodist University Board of Trustees, Communities Foundation of Texas Board of Trustees-Chairman, Texas Methodist Foundation Board of Trustees, and an Independent Board of Director of Brookshire Grocery Company.

He is a recipient of the 2021 Dallas Business Journal's Leaders in Diversity Award and the 2021 Collin County Business Alliance Leadership Award. He is also a past recipient of the SMU Distinguished Alumni Emerging Leader Award, the Minority Business Leader award from the Dallas Business Journal and a Dallas Bar Association Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Award recipient.

Richie holds degrees from Southern Methodist University and Harvard University with extended studies in Urban Planning at MIT.

Richie is married to Neisha Strambler-Butler. They have two young adults, Emily and Ford.

## RCPC IN ACTION

### RCPC Strategic Planning Session

*from Sarah Oliai*

There will be an RCPC Strategic Planning Session on Saturday, January 25th from 9:00 am to Noon. We will meet in the same location as last year, 12377 Merit Dr, Dallas 75251 in the first-floor conference room.

This meeting is an important annual benchmark for our club. You have the opportunity to help guide the direction of the Club for the 2025 Rotary Year. All club members are invited, your thoughts are wanted, welcomed and needed.

We will have coffee, juice, water and light breakfast foods. Please save the date, more information will follow.

### Salvation Army Sorting Day

*pictures from Barb Jeffries*



Angel Tree Warehouse Distribution.  
Saturday, Dec. 14, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm.

*Be a Vibrant and Visionary Model of Service Above Self*

## LAST WEEK

Presiding: PP **Richard Stanford**  
 Invocation/Pledge: **Eric Heitkamp**  
 Photographer: **Ley Waggoner**  
 Speaker: **Oswaldo Alvarenga**, Deputy Chief & Ms. **Jean Laswell**, Director of Campus  
 Program: "**Tour of the Dallas Career Institute North**"

PP **Richard Stanford** called this special meeting at the Dallas Career Institute North. It was located in what was the Walnut Hill Elementary School prior to the tornado of 2019. We were fortunate to be so graciously accommodated by the school during their finals' week.



PP **Richard** mentioned that President **Nolan** was unable to join us today while recovering from an operation. He is doing fine. He also mentioned PP **Karen Farris** and PP **Fred Brown** represented RCPC at the dedication of the Bonton Farms long awaited project kick-off.

**Eric Harrison** made a final appeal for shoes for Soles for Souls. There is still an opportunity to donate and bring your gently worn or new shoes to the Holiday Party.

PP **Ley Waggoner** introduced his guest, his wife, Jan who attended the Walnut Hill Elementary School as a child. Although the façade of the building was maintained in the rebuild, (after the 2019 tornado) everything behind it is new, so it was a nostalgic visit.

PP **Richard** then introduced our DISD host for the meeting, **Oswaldo Alvarenga**. He is the Deputy Chief of Strategic Initiatives for DISD. Mr. Alvarenga handles the Career Institutes' operations. He gave us a brief introduction to the Dallas Career Institute which is a nationally recognized high school offering career tracks for students that are not on the college track. Students have to apply to the high school indicating their desired career track while still in middle school. Once accepted the students attend the campus closest to where they live in Dallas. The school is impressive and of such a high quality, new building, new materials and equipment and advanced specialized instructors following a



### Please remember

No new concerns today.  
 Please let us know your joys and concerns.

Many thanks to *Kathleen Klaviter* for these Notes! four-year development plan. The graduates can immediately move into full time jobs from plumbing to electrician, to air conditioning/heating, etc. It made me smile as I remembered Home Ec classes. This school's kitchen setup is a full-sized restaurant kitchen where they become chefs and can serve student and faculty events. If you want to be an airplane pilot, they have flight simulators that alert the FAA when in use and graduates are ready for flying lessons in actual planes. There were classes on the business of each profession including entrepreneurship for those designing their own company. They have already had successful student businesses as a result. You left the tour so impressed that Dallas is preparing high school students to transition to successful careers after graduation. It was inspiring. Local companies are discovering the quality of the students and are vying for the graduates. It is all early days, but the program is already being visited by high school systems from Houston to Boston to learn how they can replicate the program. Because of the advanced hands-on training, it has become a business community effort to outfit all the tracks with the latest equipment. There are many companies and foundation grants supporting the school's efforts.

A tour followed this presentation.



More Pictures on page 3

### Our Mission

Building a legacy of good works and fellowship, we strive to:  
 REACH those in need in partnership with others  
 INSPIRE tomorrow's leaders with high ethical standards  
 FOSTER lives of service above self  
 – A supporting member of Rotary International

The Hub is the weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Park Cities (Dallas)

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January						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			M	M	Mtg	
5	M	M	M	M	Mtg	
12	M	M	M	BD	Mtg	
19	M	Mc	M	M	Mtg	SP
26	M	M	M	M	Mtg	

**A=Agape Health Serv Day**

**BD=** Brd of Dirs Mtg, 8am

**BF=Bonton Farm**

**Cn=PCR Connect Event.**

**CP=ChildsPlay Work Mtg-Jill Jordan.**

**D=District 5810 Event**

**DH=Dentistry with a Heart- Michael Rainwater**

**F=Fellowship Event**

**FF=RCPC Foundation Fund Mtg- Ed Jfordbak**

**FT=NTFB Truck.**

**FB=NTFB Event-Susan Glen**

**In=Interact Special Project 8 am - Tracy Gomes.**

**LL=Legacy of Leadership**

**M=** Meals on Wheels, Jim Weichel various days and times

**Mn=** Mentoring at Hillcrest HS various days and times

**Mc=Ronald McDonald House**

1 x/mo-Kathleen Klaviter

**NM=New Member Event**

**Pr=** Program Committee Mtg

**RL=Readers2Leaders-various days, times- Rob Levy**

**Rct=Rotaract- Ruth Alhilali.**

**SP=Strategic Planning Mtg**

**SpE=Special Service Event**

**VA=Veterans Support**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Jan. 17 **Tim Meurer**  
**The Wild, Wild East**



Jan. 24 **Edward S. Smith**  
**Update on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program**



Jan. 31 **Eric Nadel and Ross Fenstermaker**  
**The Texas Rangers**



Feb. 7 **Robin Marriott**  
**Topic TBA**

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**Share Rotary!** Post on your social media when you're at a meeting or event. Use our hashtags!

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**Make a post about or while at Rotary and use these hashtags**



**#PeopleOfAction**



**#parkcitiesrotary**



**#district5810proud**



**#goodthingshappeneonfridays**

## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please note** that RCPC meetings and other events are public events where photos and video are customarily taken. By attending you are consenting to free use of your likeness on RCPC and related websites, social media, streaming video, emails, newsletters and similar methods.

**Have a Great Idea for a Speaker? Your ideas are needed!** Send your ideas with the details to Richard Stanford.

**Help Wanted! At ANY RCPC Event or Project.** Take a few pictures, include a few sentences (who, what, when, where and WHY) and send to Betty for The Hub

**RI Foundation:** \$100 (or more) Every Rotarian Every Year! See Greg Pape.

**RCPC Foundation:** \$100 (or more). See Birthdays below, then Van Oliver.

**Attendance Rule Change.** For those wanting to maintain Perfect Attendance, make-ups may now be completed within a year. RI is no longer tracking attendance.

Like Us! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rotary-Club-of-Park-Cities/115439238516325>

## THOUGHTS ON . . .

### The New Year

Each new day is a blank page in the diary of your life. The secret of success is in turning that diary into the best story you possibly can.

~ Douglas Pagels

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. ~ Albert Einstein

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

~ C.S. Lewis

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.

~ Oprah Winfrey

To will is to select a goal, determine a course of action that will bring one to that goal, and then hold to that action till the goal is reached. The key is action.

~ Michael Hanson

The reason of a resolution is more to be considered than the resolution itself.

~ Sir John Holt

A goal without a plan is just a wish.

~ Antoine de Saint-Exupery

An optimist stays up to see the New Year in. A pessimist waits to make sure the old one leaves.

~ Bill Vaughan

## RCPC IN ACTION (continued from page 1)

### Thank You from Paper for Water

Dear Park Cities Rotary Club,

We are so grateful for your support this year and all you do for the Thirsty through Paper for Water. Thank you for the love you've shown all year long for people in need around the world.

We hope that your new year is filled with peace and joy! Please enjoy a special thank you video from Isabelle and me at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LM8\\_OV8U1Wg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LM8_OV8U1Wg).

Thank you again for helping us receive such a generous grant and please share with your Rotary members!

Sincerely,  
Katherine Kei Adams  
Co-CEO Paper For Water

### HE WHO LAUGHS, LASTS

A professor was giving a big test. Upon collecting the tests he saw a note attached to one with a \$100 bill under it. The note read, "One dollar per point please." The professor returned the test with \$40 and a note attached. reading, "Here's your \$40 change."

The Hub is printed by  
**Minuteman Press**  
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### More Pictures from Dec. 13 Meeting



# Rotary Club of Park Cities Market Place

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